



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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December 1, 2003

The Honorable Rep. Dan Schooff, Sen. Judy Robson, Rep. Mark Pocan, Rep. Bob Turner, Rep. John Lehman, Rep. Terese Berceau, Sen. Fred Risser, Rep. Dave Cullen, Sen. Julie Lassa, Sen. Dave Hansen, Rep. Spencer Coggs, Rep. Leon Young, Rep. Marlin Schneider, Rep. Joe Plouff

Dear Representatives and Senators:

Thank you for your letter of concern about the Joint Finance Committee's decision to eliminate funding for the Surface Transportation Program – Discretionary (STP-D) in the current biennial budget. The program has funded numerous state bicycle and pedestrian facilities and other multi-modal transportation needs since the program began in the 1993-1995 biennial budget. Unfortunately, the Governor was not able to restore the program's funding through a veto. This action of the Legislature created serious problems for several Wisconsin communities that were already planning on projects funded with STP-D in the biennium.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation will do its best to offer creative solutions for the eleven projects that have been threatened with cancellation due to the lack of new state spending authority for STP-D. Transportation Enhancements program funding is available to fund bicycle and pedestrian facilities and in southeastern Wisconsin the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) is a potential means to fund a variety of multi-modal projects. By using a combination of cost savings on existing projects and committing future Transportation Enhancements funding authority, we hope to be able to maintain STP-D projects now in the schedule with other funding sources.

The downside is that we will have to commit future funding that we planned to award to new Enhancements projects solicited next year. Further, because the elimination of the STP-D program has reduced our state spending authority for multi-modal projects, and the large number of previously approved projects already scheduled for this year, we cannot guarantee that some projects may not have to be rescheduled to a later date. We will work through our District offices to ensure projects that were STP-D funded can proceed as originally scheduled. In any event, we will avoid the impact that would have been imposed on these communities if these projects had been cancelled.

We look forward to working with you and members of the legislature on productive solutions to the state's many transportation challenges and priorities. We are committed to a partnership with local communities that will help them meet their transportation needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank J. Busalacchi".

Frank J. Busalacchi,  
Secretary